

# HEBREWS

THE SUPERIORITY OF CHRIST



# AUTHORSHIP

**The author of Hebrews is unknown.**

- \* *He knew Timothy (13:23).*
- \* *He was not an eyewitness of Jesus (see 2:1, 3).*
- \* *The author knew his readers and wanted to see them again (13:19).*
- \* Most of the churches in the eastern part of the Roman Empire believed **Paul** to have authored the book
- \* Another suggestion of authorship is **Barnabas**.
  - \* He was a Jew of the priestly tribe of Levi (Ac 4:36) who became a close friend of Paul after the latter's conversion.
  - \* Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the church at Antioch commissioned Barnabas and Paul for the work of evangelism and sent them off on the first missionary journey (Ac 13:1-4).
- \* Another leading candidate for authorship is **Apollos**, whose name was first suggested by Martin Luther.
  - \* Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, was also a Jewish Christian with notable intellectual and oratorical abilities.
  - \* Luke tells us that "he was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures" (Ac 18:24).
  - \* We also know that Apollos was associated with Paul in the early years of the church in Corinth (1Co 1:12; 3:4,6,22).

**There are certainly strong indications that it was written prior to 70 A.D.**

- \* There is no mention of the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple
- \* The author writes as though priests were still offering sacrifices - **Heb 8:4; 10:11**

\* **CHAPTERS:** 13 | **VERSES:** 303



# A SPECIAL BOOK

**Hebrews 13:22** *"Brothers, I urge you to receive this message of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly. "*

Though it claims to be a brief exhortation, the book of Hebrews is supposed to be one of the books most Christians avoid reading.

- \* Leviticus - in the OT
- \* Hebrews - in the NT

## NOT FOR THE BABIES/ IMMATURE IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF SCRIPTURES

**Hebrews 5:11-14** *"11 We have a great deal to say about this, and it's difficult to explain, since you have become too lazy to understand. 12 Although by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the basic principles of God's revelation again. You need milk, not solid food. 13 Now everyone who lives on milk is inexperienced with the message about righteousness, because he is an infant. 14 But solid food is for the mature—for those whose senses have been trained to distinguish between good and evil."*

- misguided theologians argue that Hebrews (along with Romans) dismisses the Old Testament
- But those are the ones with the highest number of quotes from it:
- **Romans** (quotes or paraphrases **84 Old Testament passages**)
- **Hebrews** (quotes or paraphrases **83 Old Testament passages**).

It is necessary to understand the Old Testament and its relation to the New in order to understand the gospel of grace, and thus to avoid the false teaching of those Jews who were seeking to mislead Gentile believers.



# CHRIST IS SUPERIOR

## 1. The superiority of Christ - [Heb 1:1-8:6](#)

- Better than the prophets, as a much better Spokesman - [Heb 1:1-3](#)
- Better than the angels, by virtue of His Deity and humanity - [Heb 1:4-2:18](#)
- Better than Moses, for He is the Son who provides a heavenly rest - [Heb 3:1-4:13](#)
- Better than Aaron, as His priesthood is a superior one - [Heb 4:16-8:6](#)

## 2. The superiority of the New Covenant - [Heb 8:7-10:18](#)

- For it is based upon better promises - [Heb 8:7-13](#)
- For it is based upon a better sanctuary - [Heb 9:1-28](#)
- For it is based upon a better sacrifice - [Heb 10:1-18](#)



# WARNINGS IN HEBREWS

## 1. The warning against drifting - [Heb 2:1-4](#)

- Through neglect we can easily drift away
- The solution is to give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard

## 2. The warning against departing - [Heb 3:12-15](#)

- Through sin's deceitfulness we can become hardened and develop a lack of faith by which we can depart from the living God
- The solution is exhort one another daily and remain steadfast

## 3. The warning against disobedience - [Heb 4:11-13](#)

- Like Israel in the wilderness, we can fail to enter our rest through disobedience
- The solution is diligence and heeding the Word of God



# WARNINGS IN HEBREWS

## 4. The warning against dullness - [Heb 5:11-6:6](#)

- Dullness of hearing can make it difficult for us to appreciate the extent of our blessings in Christ, and even falling away to the point of crucifying the Son of God afresh!
- The solution is grasping the first principles of the oracles of God, and then pressing on to spiritual maturity and perfection

## 5. The warning against despising - [Heb 10:26-39](#)

- It is possible to so despise God's grace as to no longer have a sacrifice for sins, but only a certain fearful expectation of judgment
- The solution is to hold unto our confidence in Christ, and believe with endurance

## 6. The warning against defying - [Heb 12:25-29](#)

- It is possible to refuse to listen to the One who now speaks from heaven!
- The solution is to look diligently to the grace of God, receiving it in such a way so we may serve Him acceptably with reverence and godly fear



# OVERVIEW

- **Prologue: The Superiority of God's New Revelation (1:1-4)**
- **The Superiority of Christ to Leading Figures under the Old Covenant (1:5-7:28)**
  - Christ Is Superior to the Angels (1:5-2:18)
    1. Scriptural proof of his superiority (1:5-14)
    2. Exhortation not to ignore the revelation of God in his Son (2:1-4)
    3. Jesus was made a little lower than the angels (2:5-9)
    4. Having been made like us, Jesus was enabled to save us (2:10-18)
  - Christ Is Superior to Moses (3:1-4:13)
    1. Demonstration of Christ's superiority (3:1-6)
    2. Exhortation to enter salvation-rest (3:7-4:13)
  - Christ Is Superior to the Aaronic Priests (4:14-7:28)
    1. Jesus is the great high priest (4:14-16)
    2. Qualifications of a priest (5:1-10)
    3. Exhortation to press on toward maturity (5:11-6:12)
    4. The certainty of God's promise (6:13-20)
    5. Christ's superior priestly order (ch. 7)
- **The Superior Sacrificial Work of Our High Priest (8:1-10:18)**
  - A New Sanctuary and a New Covenant (ch. 8)
  - The Old Sanctuary (9:1-10)
  - The Better Sacrifice (9:11-10:18)
- **A Call to Follow Jesus Faithfully and with Perseverance (10:19-12:29)**
  - Having Confidence to Enter the Sanctuary (10:19-25)
  - A Warning against Persistence in Sin (10:26-31)
  - Persevering in Faith under Pressure (10:32-12:3)
    1. As in the past, so in the future (10:32-39)
    2. Faith and its many outstanding examples (ch. 11)
    3. Jesus, the supreme example (12:1-3)
  - Encouragement to Persevere in the Face of Hardship (12:4-13)
  - Exhortation to Holy Living (12:14-17)
  - Crowning Motivation and Warning (12:18-29)
- **Conclusion (ch. 13)**
  - Rules for Christian Living (13:1-17)
  - Request for Prayer (13:18-19)
  - Benediction (13:20-21)
  - Personal Remarks (13:22-23)
  - Greetings and Final Benediction (13:24-25)